

Message

From: Rodan, Bruce [rodan.bruce@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/31/2021 10:19:42 PM
To: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer [Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov]
CC: Blackburn, Elizabeth [Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov]
Subject: EJ EO

EJ – I went through the Executive Order. Along the lines that Wayne was discussing, there is considerable text requiring that Agency's undertake analyses to identify equity issues, so this could be a good role for ORD:

Sec. 4. Identifying Methods to Assess Equity. (a) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) shall, in partnership with the heads of agencies, study methods for assessing whether agency policies and actions create or exacerbate barriers to full and equal participation by all eligible individuals. The study should aim to identify the best methods, consistent with applicable law, to assist agencies in assessing equity with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, income, geography, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability.

(b) As part of this study, the Director of OMB shall consider whether to recommend that agencies employ pilot programs to test model assessment tools and assist agencies in doing so.

(c) Within 6 months of the date of this order, the Director of OMB shall deliver a report to the President describing the best practices identified by the study and, as appropriate, recommending approaches to expand use of those methods across the Federal Government.

Sec. 5. Conducting an Equity Assessment in Federal Agencies. The head of each agency, or designee, shall, in consultation with the Director of OMB, select certain of the agency's programs and policies for a review that will assess whether underserved communities and their members face systemic barriers in accessing benefits and opportunities available pursuant to those policies and programs. The head of each agency, or designee, shall conduct such review and within 200 days of the date of this order provide a report to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy (APDP) reflecting findings on the following:

(a) Potential barriers that underserved communities and individuals may face to enrollment in and access to benefits and services in Federal programs;

(b) Potential barriers that underserved communities and individuals may face in taking advantage of agency procurement and contracting opportunities;

(c) Whether new policies, regulations, or guidance documents may be necessary to advance equity in agency actions and programs; and

(d) The operational status and level of institutional resources available to offices or divisions within the agency that are responsible for advancing civil rights or whose mandates specifically include serving underrepresented or disadvantaged communities.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/>

Dr. Bruce Rodan
Associate Director for Science
EPA Office of Research and Development

From: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 4:49 PM
To: Rodan, Bruce <rodan.bruce@epa.gov>
Cc: Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow Up to Discussion

Thanks Bruce

Liz let's talk at the 9:30

I'll ask Wayne to hold

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, PhD
Acting Assistant Administrator and
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development
US EPA
Office 202-564-6620
Cell. 919-699-1564
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2021, at 4:39 PM, Rodan, Bruce <rodan.bruce@epa.gov> wrote:

Jennifer, Liz,

Regarding the text and basis of what Wayne says – as usual, very thoughtful, informative, and well written. As written, I wouldn't have a problem with this email going to OEJ.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Very happy to chat.

Dr. Bruce Rodan
Associate Director for Science
EPA Office of Research and Development

From: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 1:21 PM
To: Rodan, Bruce <rodan.bruce@epa.gov>
Cc: Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Follow Up to Discussion

Take a look. Haven't responded back yet. Any thoughts before I do?

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, PhD
Acting Assistant Administrator and
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development
US EPA
Office 202-564-6620
Cell. 919-699-1564
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Cascio, Wayne" <Cascio.Wayne@epa.gov>
Date: January 30, 2021 at 12:20:56 PM EST
To: "Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer" <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Cc: "Holt, Kay" <Holt.Kay@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow Up to Discussion

Jennifer – On Friday I had a long conversation with Charles Lee on the topic of EJ. With the Agency's new found interest in EJ he asked that I write a summary of our conversation as a starting point to develop an approach to summarize existing evidence and generate new evidence to support policy and rule changes that would incorporate evidence of social factors interacting with environmental exposures to cause health inequities. The text I intended to send him is below. I'm sharing with you first so that if any of it gives you pause you can modify. There are no promises here, what I wrote just acknowledges some of our previous work, the importance of the problem and the value of working to find solutions. Wayne

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Wayne

Wayne E. Cascio, MD, FACC | Director | Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment | Office of Research and Development | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Research Triangle Park, NC 27711 | Phone: 919.541.2508 | Cell: 919.627.3762 |

From: Lee, Charles <Lee.Charles@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 9:44 PM
To: Cascio, Wayne <Cascio.Wayne@epa.gov>
Subject: Follow Up to Discussion

Hi Wayne

Here are a number of the articles I mentioned today. The key one is attached. This is Rachel Morello Frosch's article that found a correlation between measures of residential segregation and cancer risk associated with ambient air toxics. This is the article which gave rise to my thinking about environmental effects modification by social factors. Citations for this and other relevant articles are below.

- Morello-Frosch, Rachel, and Bill M Jesdale. "Separate and unequal: residential

segregation and estimated cancer risks associated with ambient air toxics in U.S. metropolitan areas." *Environmental health perspectives* vol. 114,3 (2006): 386-93. doi:10.1289/ehp.8500

· Morello-Frosch, Rachel, and Edmond D Shenassa. "The environmental "riskscape" and social inequality: implications for explaining maternal and child health disparities." *Environmental health perspectives* vol. 114,8 (2006): 1150-3. doi:10.1289/ehp.8930

· Bell, Michelle L and Francesca Dominici, "Effect Modification by Community Characteristics on the Short-Term Effects of Ozone Exposure and Mortality in 98 US Communities," *American Journal of Epidemiology*, Vol 167, No. 8, DOI: 10.1093/aje/kwm396, February 25, 2008

· Nordone, A, et.al., "Associations between historical residential redlining and current age-adjusted rates of emergency department visits due to asthma across eight cities in California: an ecological study," *Lancet Planet Health* 2020; 4: e24–31, [https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2542-5196%2819%2930241-4<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thelancet.com%2Faction%2FshowPdf%3Fpii%3DS2542-5196%252819%252930241-4&data=04%7C01%7COrme-Zavaleta.Jennifer%40epa.gov%7C11221822b1be4d74e60e08d8c54362e9%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637476240558336710%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImC4wLjAwMDAilCJljoIV2luMzIlLCJBTiI6IkhWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=JF6qpbGTcSldhFahlkUMg0TSvhpTBRq9Xv1yDSvxdyQ%3D&reserved=0>](https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2542-5196%2819%2930241-4&data=04%7C01%7COrme-Zavaleta.Jennifer%40epa.gov%7C11221822b1be4d74e60e08d8c54362e9%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637476240558336710%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImC4wLjAwMDAilCJljoIV2luMzIlLCJBTiI6IkhWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=JF6qpbGTcSldhFahlkUMg0TSvhpTBRq9Xv1yDSvxdyQ%3D&reserved=0)

· Hoffman, Jeremy S, Vivek Shandas, and Nicholas Pendleton, "The Effects of Historical Housing Policies on Resident Exposure to Intra-Urban Heat: A Study of 108 US Urban Areas," *Climate*, January 13, 2020, <https://www.mdpi.com/2225-1154/8/1/12/htm><[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mdpi.com%2F2225-1154%2F8%2F1%2F12%2Fhtm&data=04%7C01%7COrme-Zavaleta.Jennifer%40epa.gov%7C11221822b1be4d74e60e08d8c54362e9%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637476240558346668%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImC4wLjAwMDAilCJljoIV2luMzIlLCJBTiI6IkhWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=qo1b%2FjyCYUFyPwVDln9Z4Q%2BWYUM3okS8O7vv9u083os%3D&reserved=0>](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mdpi.com%2F2225-1154%2F8%2F1%2F12%2Fhtm&data=04%7C01%7COrme-Zavaleta.Jennifer%40epa.gov%7C11221822b1be4d74e60e08d8c54362e9%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637476240558346668%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoImC4wLjAwMDAilCJljoIV2luMzIlLCJBTiI6IkhWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=qo1b%2FjyCYUFyPwVDln9Z4Q%2BWYUM3okS8O7vv9u083os%3D&reserved=0)

I look forward to getting copies of the articles you shared with me. Also, can you write me a short response (no more than one or two paragraphs) regarding the thought piece that I shared with you stating why and how this idea of environmental effects modification by social factors can be a salient area of research. This would help me construct a short piece introducing the concept to new leadership in OP.

Best
Charles

Charles Lee
Senior Policy Advisor for Environmental Justice
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (MC 2201A)
Washington, DC 20460
William Jefferson Clinton Building South, Room 2226B
Tel: 202-564-2597
Cell: 202-329-4723